

Message Text

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ACTION EA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SSO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-03 H-02

INR-07 L-02 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15

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R 131249Z APR 75

FM AMEMBASSY BANGKOK

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 2658

C O N F I D E N T I A L BANGKOK 6278

E.O. 116528 GDS

TAGS: PGOV, PINS, PINT, PFOR, CB

SUBJECT: ARRIVAL IN BANGKOK OF SAUKHAM KHOY AND OTHER GKR
PERSONALITPES

REF: BANGKOK 6275

CAMBODIA-B NO. 13

1. GKR PERSONALITIES ARRIVED IN BANGKOK MID-DAY APRIL 13 BY U.S. AIR FORCE PLANE FROM UTAPAO. HELICOPTER DEPOSITED GROUP AT UTAPAO ABOUT 0945.) ON BOARD WERE GKR ACTING PRESIDENT SAUKHAM KHOY, HIS WIFE AND CHILDREN AND THEIR FAMILIES TOTALLING SIXTEEN PERSONS. ONLY OTHER NOTABLES WERE MINISTER OF CULTURE LONG BOTTA, HIS WIFE AND TWO CHILDREN, AND WIFE AND TWO CHILDREN OF 3RD DEPUTY PRIME MINISTER PAN SOTHI.

2. THAI PROTOCOL AND GKR EMBASSY OFFICIALS WERE SCHEDULED TO BE AT AIRPORT BUT, NOT SURPRISLINGLY, THEY DROPPED THE BALL COMPLETELY AND THE PRESIDENT'S GROUP WAS NOT MET. PHNOM PENH EMBASSY OFFICER ACCOMPANIED THEM ON U.S. MILITARY BUS TO KHMER EMBASSY RESIDENCE WHERE CONTACT WAS FINALLY MADE WITH GKR FOREIGN MINISTER KEUKY LIM. ALTHOUGH THE FOREIGN PRESS INTERVIEWED KHOY UPON HIS DESCENT FROM THE HELICOPTER IN UTAPAO, THERE HAS BEEN NO OTHER CONTACT WITH THE MEDIA BY THESE PERSONS.

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3. WE HAVE COUNSELLED KHOY AND THE REST TO GET SETTLED AND RELAX FOR A FEW DAYS TO GIVE THEM A CHANCE TO CONSIDER THEIR NEXT MOVE. USOM THAILAND OFFERED, AND KHOY (WHO HAS VIRTUALLY NO FUNDS) GRATEFULLY ACCEPTED, ONE OF ITS APARTMENTS. KHOY IS PRESENTLY DRAFTING RESPONSE TO HIS "DEPOSITION" BY CABINET IN PHNOM PENH (SEE BANGKOK 6275).

4. LONG BOTTA HAS ALREADY ASKED IF AIR TICKETS TO FRANCE FOR HIM, HIS WIFE, WIFE'S SISTER AND TWO SMALL CHILDREN CAN BE ARRANGED. WE HAVE NOT TALKED WITH MRS. PAN SOTHI SPECIFICALLY ABOUT HER PLANS BUT SHE HAS INDICATED THAT IF HER HUSBAND CANNOT GET OUT OF PHNOM PENH SHE WOULD LIKE TO GO TO U.S. (SHE IS U.S. EDUCATED AND HAS MANY FRIENDS THERE.)

5. WE REALIZE THERE IS LIMIT TO WHAT WE CAN DO, BUT WE WOULD LIKE TO ASSIST TO EXTENT POSSIBLE, PARTICULARLY SAUKHAM KHOY, WHO LEFT PHNOM PENH WITH NEXT TO NOTHING, IN STARK CONTRAST TO HIS PREDECESSOR. REQUEST DEPARTMENT'S COMMENTS.
MASTERS

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NNN

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